

WAR NUMBER.



Central Offices: 28, BUCKINGHAM GATE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON.
Telegraphic Address: EMPIRLEA SOWEST LONDON.
Telephone No.: VICTORIA 3094.

THE ALL-RED MAIL.

JUNIOR SECTION OF "THE FEDERAL MAGAZINE."

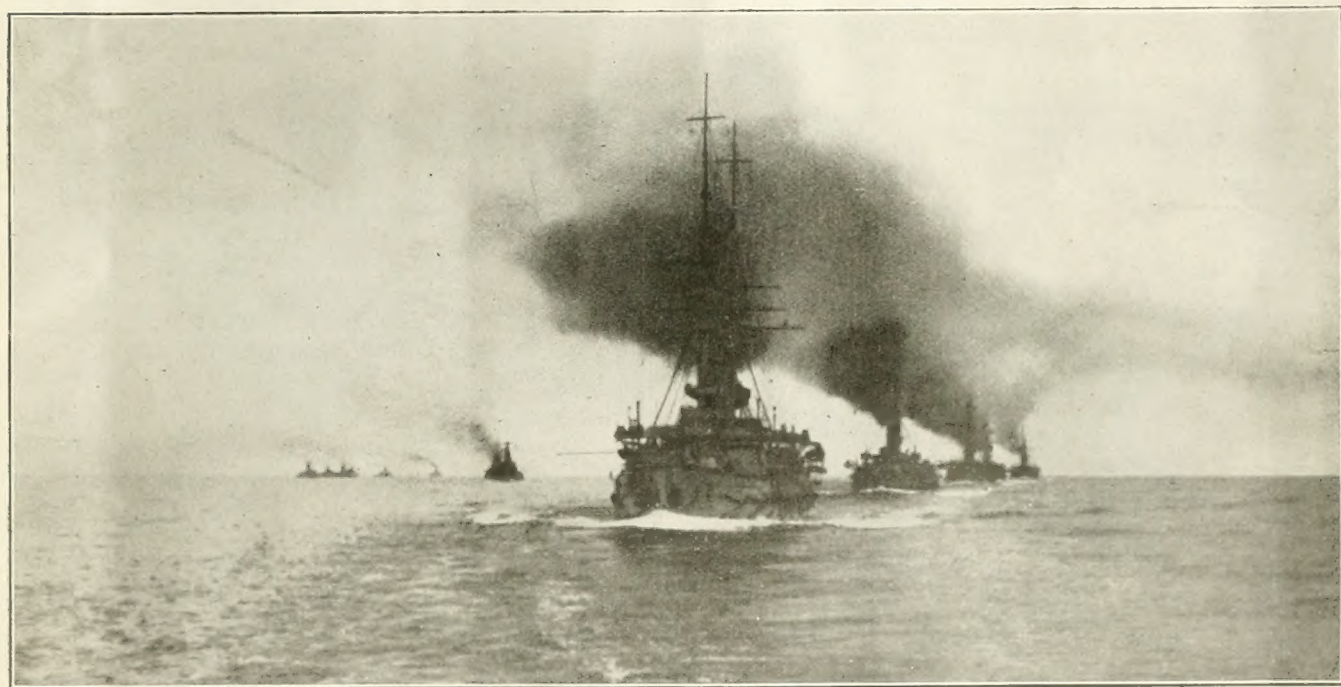
MONTHLY RECORD OF

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

EDITED BY E. M. ORD MARSHALL.

No. 2. (New Issue.—December, 1915.)

Price ½d.



BATTLESHIPS AT THE DARDANELLES.
1915.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING.


Christmas, the time of "Peace and Goodwill," holds this year for many of us the sorrows which a great war brings in its train. Thus, it is difficult, perhaps, to make this Christmas a festival of joy. With the war has also come, however, a greater sympathy one for another, and Christmas gives opportunity for many acts of special kindnesses even outside our own homes. All will wish to give pleasure to the brave men fighting for our sakes and suffering in our stead. In making their Christmas as happy as possible we

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may find joy ourselves. So we wish all our readers a "Very Happy Christmas."

Month by month we shall give special war news, also accounts of the different means of fighting which have been employed, such as aeroplanes, trench fighting, submarines, &c., and always there will be tales of courage, accounts of work done by members, and, of course, pictures, whether of places, deeds of courage, or of our helpers.

The ALL-RED MAIL will be published both in conjunction with the FEDERAL MAGAZINE and also separately, price ½d. The January and February ALL-RED MAIL will be printed together as a double number



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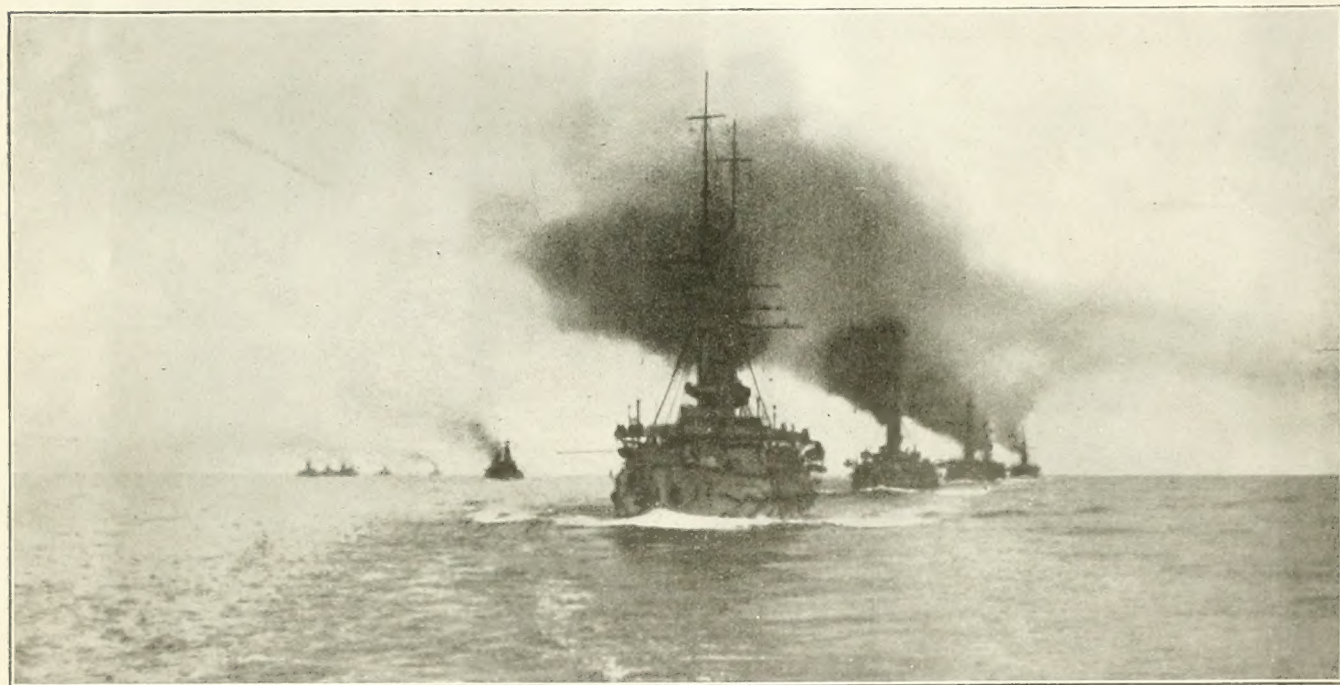
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THE STORY OF THE GREAT WAR.

THE WORK OF THE NAVY.

The Navy is playing as great a part in our history to-day as it did in the time of the great Armada, and the spirit of the men—their unceasing vigilance, their self-sacrifice and their devotion to duty—is the same as that of their forefathers who both saved England from the Spaniards and won the Battle of Trafalgar.

Modern Ships of War.

The navigators of the Tudor times, when "Great Harry" was the typical war vessel (see illustration), could not have imagined that the wooden sailing ship would give way to steam and steel. The changes that have taken place since Nelson's time, but a little more than a hundred years ago, will be seen by a comparison between the "Victory" (see illustration) and the modern battleships in our frontispiece.

Since 1906 the Dreadnought has been the first-line fighting ship of the British Navy. To-day "Big Lizzie," as the sailors dub the super-Dreadnought of the Dardanelles, carries eight 15 in. guns, firing shells one ton in weight at a range of over eleven miles.

The following list gives the approximate present day strength of the Navy:—

TYPE OF SHIP.	BUILT.	BUILDING.
Battleships	58	14
Battle cruisers	9	1
Cruisers	47	—
Light cruisers	65	20
Torpedo Vessels	25	1
Torpedo boat destroyers ...	201	36
Torpedo boats	106	—
Submarines	69	27

(Whitaker, 1915.)

An the sort of vessel, the monitor, has lately come into action. It is a flat, barge-like ship, lying very low in the water, and thus offering much less of a target to gun-fire. The monitors have been used with great success in the bombardment of the Belgian and Turkish coasts, and although their speed is far less than that of battleships, they can carry immense guns that discharge shells at a distance of over ten miles.

In the early days of the war the enemy's submarines were very active around our coasts, but of recent months it has been the British submarines which have done most damage in the Baltic, the Mediterranean and the Sea of Marmora.

The Fleet as Watch Dog.

When war broke out in August, 1914, the British Fleet was ready and fully mobilised in the North Sea. Had our fleet at this moment been scattered the course of the war must have been very different, and it is certain that our command of the sea would have been challenged. As it is, the British Navy holds the German Grand Fleet imprisoned in the Kiel Canal. This control of the sea has been of supreme importance to the Allies in the transport of troops from all parts of the world to the different fields of action.

The Fleet in Action.

The work of the Navy is often described as silent and invisible. It patrols our coasts, has cleared the seas of hostile craft, and maintained British traffic throughout the world.

But it is not only as a watch dog that the British Fleet shows its mettle. Towards the end of August, 1914, the first naval engagement took place off Heligoland, within a few miles of bases in which the whole German Fleet was lying. Submarines and destroyers were used by the enemy and ourselves alike; but victory was with the British. In September (1914) German submarines sank in the North Sea the British cruisers "Cressy," "Hogue" and "Aboukir." In the same month the Australian Navy made its brilliant entrance into the war by capturing German New Guinea.

The month of November (1914) was marked by naval loss



GERMAN FOUR-MASTER CROSSING THE NORTH SEA.

Photo by W. Wood.]

[By courtesy of the National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

and gain. In the Pacific Ocean, off Coronel Island, Admiral Cradock with a weak squadron suffered defeat, the "Good Hope" and the "Monmouth" being sunk. On the 14th November, H.M.A.S. "Sydney," after a long and exciting chase, caught the "Emden" (which had done much damage to our merchant shipping off India and elsewhere) near the Cocos Islands, captured the crew and sank the vessel.

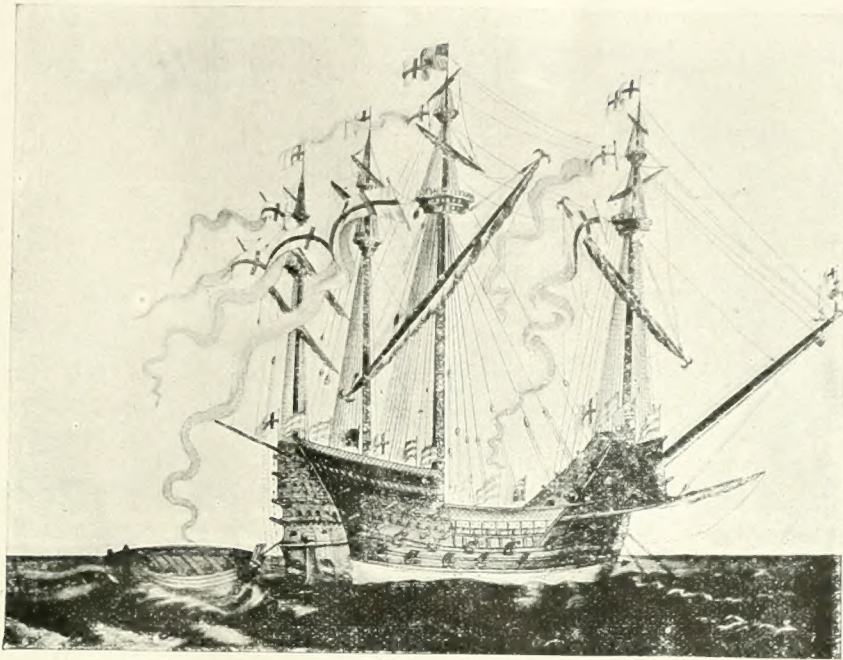
In the following month our Fleet under Admiral Sturdee won the great victory off the Falkland Islands, when Von Spee, the victor in the Coronel fight, was defeated with the loss of three enemy cruisers. The victory off the Dogger Bank in January last, again showed the superiority of our Fleet when at close quarters with the enemy.

Perhaps the most dangerous operation in which the Navy has been engaged is the attack on the Dardanelles forts (beginning in February, 1915), where practically every type of warship (dreadnought, monitor, submarine, destroyer), has been in action. Here our submarines have performed most daring feats. One deed is especially noteworthy. Lieutenant Holbrook, V.C., took his submarine under five rows of Turkish mines in the Dardanelles, reached the Sea of Marmora, and there torpedoed a Turkish battleship.

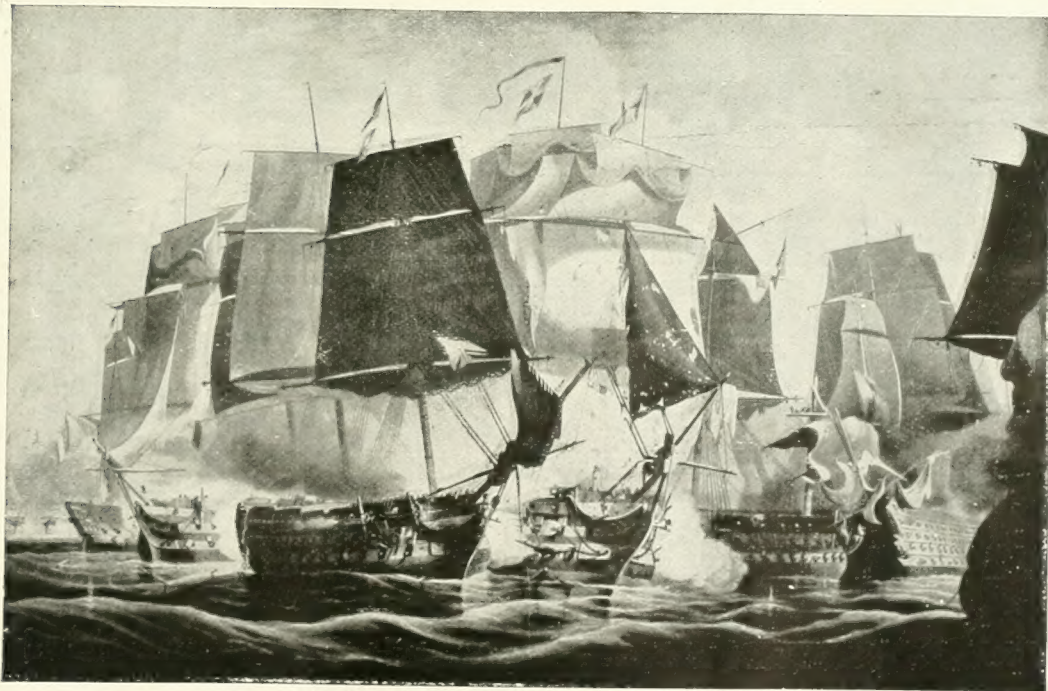
The naval action in the Baltic in July last, has been followed by a series of successful submarine attacks on German steamers in that sea, with the result that few vessels belonging either to the enemy or to neutral countries have ventured forth.

The Two Blockades.

On February 1st Germany declared a submarine blockade of Great Britain. This blockade she could not make effective, and though we have to regret the loss of many brave men and the "Lusitania" and other ships, England has yet main-



THE "GREAT HARRY" OR "HENRY GRACE-À-DIEU."
1545.



THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR: THE "VICTORY" MAKING THE LINE.
(From a contemporary print after the original by Huggins.)

1805.

tained her trade unimpaired, a fact of the highest importance. On the other hand, the naval blockade of Germany has been achieved, and to-day the enemy is cut off from practically all commercial dealings with the outside world.

No account of the Navy would be complete without a reference to the merchant service, to the heroic fisherfolk who have been engaged in the perilous work of mine sweeping, and also to the valuable co-operation of the men of the Naval wing of the Royal Flying Corps, who have again and again shown their daring and their skill both by land and sea. Of the mien of the British sailors we may say as Newbolt says of those of old :—

[They] "cared greatly to serve God and the King,
And keep the Nelson touch,

And fought to build Britain above the tide
Of wars and windy fate ;

And passed content, leaving to us the pride
Of lives obscurely great."

THE SPIRIT OF SERBIA.

BY BELLA SIDNEY WOOLF (MRS. R. H. LOCK).

"Victory is won not by shining arms, but by brave hearts."
—Serbian Proverb.

The eyes of the world have been turned towards Serbia, that gallant little country which for over a year has been fighting against fearful odds. Many of the readers of this page may not realise the wonders that Serbia, our little ally, has done. Therefore, a few words about her heroic resistance; and the people and the country will, I think, interest you.

The Beginning of Serbia's Defence.

The Austrians, when they declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914, thought it would be a "walk-over," but instead the Austrian army was held up by the Serbians for a whole fortnight. When at last the Austrians made an advance they were driven back into their own country by August 25, 1914.

Again in September the Austrians were pushed back, and a month later came the fiercest attack of all. Owing to want of ammunition the Serbians had to fall back. In his booklet called "The Spirit of the Serb," Mr. Seton Watson says that an officer told him that in his particular section of the trenches 1,000 Austrian shells were replied to by three Serbian shells!

Serbia's Desperate Rally.

It looked as if Austria might really win at any moment. And then at last the ammunition began to come through. Early in December the Serbians made a sudden and desperate rally, and by the middle of December not a single Austrian was left on Serbian soil.

It was one of the most wonderful victories a small nation ever won. And the gallant behaviour of the King helped in some degree to bring it about. Though old and infirm, and broken with rheumatism, he hurried to the front at the most critical moment, and gave a stirring address to his troops. "Heroes," he said (for in the Serbian language the usual form of address is not "soldiers," but "heroes"), "heroes, you have taken two oaths, one to me, your King, and one to your country. From the first I release you, for the situation is far too grave to justify me, an old man on the edge of the grave, in holding you to it. From the oath to your country no man can release you. But I promise that if you decide to return to your homes, and if the future favours our cause you shall not be made to suffer. But whether you go or stay, I and my sons remain here."

So great was the effect of the King's speech that not a man left his post.

"Not 'Men' but 'Brothers.'"

Mr. Seton Watson says also that the good feeling between officers and men in the Serbian army is very marked; in fact, it is "a charming blend of discipline and comradeship." Serbia is a peasant country; the Turks destroyed the aristocracy, and now all Serbia's statesmen, diplomats and writers have sprung from the peasant class. Even the grandfather of the King was a peasant. So it often happens that a captain in the Serbian Army has his brothers and cousins in his own company. This is not so surprising now to us, since men of all ranks have enlisted in the new armies. A pleasant glimpse of this spirit in the Serbian army is seen in the fact that "just as it is customary to address the troops as 'heroes,' so the officers summon their men to the fight, not as 'men,' but 'brothers.'"

The Children of Serbia.

And now let us turn for a moment to the children of Serbia. You will see a little group of them on this page, and very picturesque they are. Here is a description of their dress by Miss Gardner-King, who kindly lent me the drawing, which was done by a friend of hers:



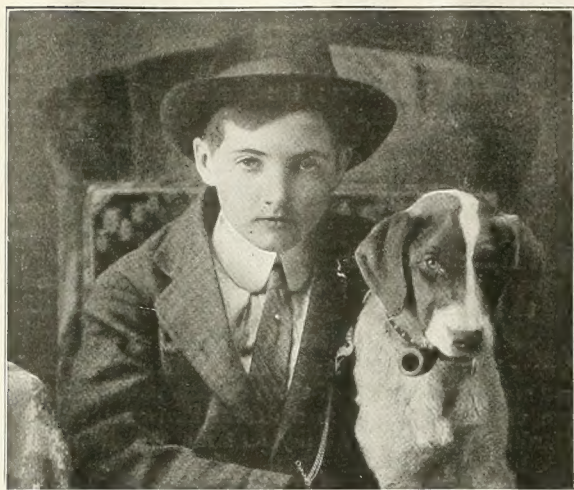
"The Serbian costume consists of a long-sleeved chemise, which comes below the skirt, and is edged with lace and a little colour, red and blue preferred, and a skirt and apron and a little bolero without sleeves. The apron is worn behind, with the corners turned up fishwife fashion till after marriage, when it is brought round to the front, and allowed to hang down. Then there is a cloak with a pointed hood, which does not show in the drawing. A handkerchief is worn over the head, and the hood is only used in very cold weather."

The Serbian Children have no Time for Games or Fun.

The Serbian orphans, whose fathers have fought so gallantly for Serbia, have no time for games and fun. Very often the enemy has come and burnt their farms and cottages, killed their horses and their pigs and their dogs, and forced the poor people to leave their homes in terror, trudging for miles along the roads with nothing to eat, and with no house to take refuge in, even in the rain and snow of winter. So many Serbian children have lost their parents, their fathers and brothers killed in battle, their mothers and sisters dying of hunger or illness.

As I write nearly all Serbia is in the hands of the enemy. The Bulgarians have joined Germany and Austria, and have fallen upon their neighbour. But the Serbians fight on undaunted with the supreme faith that they have put into words:

"Victory is won not by shining arms but by brave hearts."



A CANADIAN MEMBER OF THE COMRADE CORRESPONDENCE BRANCH.

COMRADES ALL.

The Comrades' Correspondence Branch numbers now nearly 34,000 members, and each day budgets arrive at the London offices, all the writers wanting an "Empire Friend." Over 600 applications were recently received from Canadian members for correspondents, especially in England or in Australia. One girl asks for a second comrade, saying that she wrote to the League once before, and that monthly since for four years she had been receiving letters from an Australian comrade. "She is one of my best friends now," she adds.

From the Orange River Free State a correspondent writes that he wishes to join the League, and write to "some boy in one of the following places, as I want to exchange stamps, Labuan, Trinidad, or Canada." He is an active, patriotic lad, for he ends his letter thus: "I wish I was a boy scout in England to be able to be of use in little ways." He will, at any rate, do good in his own homeland, and prove, like the gallant men under General Botha, a true son of the Empire.

COMPETITIONS.

We hope that a large number of our readers will enter for one or other of the competitions, which will always be announced three months ahead for the benefit of Overseas contributors. Each month some competition will be given, the result of which will be of use to our soldiers and sailors. Prizes and certificates will be awarded for the best work sent in.

1. News from Home Budgets.

Both boys and girls can make a scrap book, a "News from Home Budget" for the wounded soldiers. The books should be about 12 in. long by 10 in. wide, the pages, including the cover, may be made of brown or other strong paper (no stiff boards are permitted). The Budgets should consist of at least 12 pages—only printed matter may be included. The Budget should contain interesting bits of home news, descriptions of sports, bright sayings, short stories, verses and pictures, all cut out from newspapers and magazines; photographs, drawings and picture postcards may also be used. These Budgets will be sent to Hospitals abroad where men come in straight from the trenches and want something at once to remind them of home. All Budgets should be addressed to Mrs. Ord Marshall, League of the Empire, 28, Buckingham Gate, London, who will despatch them to their destination. A paper should be enclosed with the name and address of the donor.

- 2 A "Little Gay Bag," made of chintz or other strong material (size 10 in. by 9 in.), with a draw string for soldiers in hospitals. If desired, the bags may be stocked with any of the following articles: Knife, pipe, a few cigarettes, safety pins, housewife, pencil, small note book, toothbrush, handkerchief, piece of soap or other useful articles.

Prizes will be given for the best sets of bags sent in, and also for the best bags with contents costing not more than 1s.

3. A Stationery pad, suitable for a soldier in hospital, made entirely by the contributor.
4. A small book of Photographs illustrating "My District" or "My Home."
5. "Told in Gallant Deeds." Under this heading will be printed the best short story of the war sent in by a contributor (length not to exceed 300 words).
6. Original Puzzles.

Prizes will also be given for the best specimens of the different little garments worn by the Serbian children (see page 11). Patterns and measurements may be obtained from the League of the Empire, 28, Buckingham-gate. All garments will afterwards be sent to the Serbian orphans.

All competitors must be under 20 years of age. The name, address and age must be given on all work sent in for competition. In adjudging prizes age will be taken into consideration. Prizes will be awarded three times yearly, at Christmas, Easter and Midsummer.

A coupon or 1d. stamp must accompany work sent in for competition; otherwise no coupon is required, nor is there any age limit.

All contributions must be addressed to Mrs. Ord Marshall, the League of the Empire, 28, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.

THE ARMY OF LEAGUE HELPERS.

DEAR READERS OF THE ALL-RED MAIL.

I have left very little space for the Army of League Helpers this month, because I felt you would like to hear about Serbia, so that I can only give you a brief report of some of the gifts that have come to us, and ask you to join in the many tasks we have to do. The Army of Child Helpers, South Staffordshire sent us £2 towards the Tobacco Fund. And several members contributed "Gay Bags," Hilda Preston, 17 Gay Bags and a scarf; Beatrice and Hilda Roberthan, two Gay Bags, and Miss Florence Abrahamson (Copenhagen) sent us 10s. 6d. towards soldiers' comforts, for which we thank them heartily.

I hope Every Reader will Help.

There are so many comforts wanted for our wounded soldiers: Pipes (costing 6d. or 1s.), tooth powder, soap, books, games, mouth organs, razors, pencils, knives, tobacco. Please send the gifts themselves or money to buy them. The League will see that they go direct to those who need them. I have several letters showing the necessity there is for these gifts, but they must be held over till next month.

Help the Serbian Orphans.

Some of you will feel you would like to do something for the Serbian orphans, of whom I have told you. Gifts of money or offers to make garments will be most welcome. Every effort is being made to preserve their national dress. For a Serbian proverb says: "Better let the village perish than its ancient customs." Mrs. Ord Marshall has already sent a quantity of splendid stockings for the orphans; these are always welcome.

Yours sincerely,

BELLA SIDNEY WOOLF, Organiser.
(Mrs. R. H. Lock.)

All letters should be addressed to

Mrs. R. H. LOCK,
League of the Empire Office,
28, Buckingham Gate, S.W.